

REMARKS

Claims 17-30 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 31-43 have been added and constitute the pending claims in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone call on May 28, 2004. During the call, the Examiner indicated that she would reconsider a previous restriction requirement withdrawing claims 17-29 as directed to a non-elected invention and accept a Request for Continued Examination resubmitting claims 17-29. Claims 17-29 have been cancelled and resubmitted as new claims 31-43. Claims 31-43 will not require further searching on the part of the Examiner as a search was previously conducted in the parent application which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,096,041. Support for new independent claims 31, 42, and 43 can be found at least at page 8, line 10, to page 9, line 18, and FIG. 6 of the originally-filed application. Support for new dependent claims 32-41 can be found at least at page 5, line 1, to page 8, line 9, FIGS. 1-5, and claims 1-8 of the originally-filed application. Applicants submit that no new matter has been entered thereby.

Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anspach, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,725, 541) and Pietrzak et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,727,342). Claim 30 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled claim 30 in the future in this or another application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this submission be charged to **Deposit Account No. 18-1945**, under Order No. MIY-P02-002 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Agnes S. Lee

Registration No.: 46,862

ROPES & GRAY LLP

One International Place

Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2624

(617) 951-7000

(617) 951-7050 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant